AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for actively managing configurable components, comprising:

a plurality of components, each component storing a configuration comprising a set of configuration parameters;

a repository that stores information about a configuration policy;

a server configured to (a) register each of the plurality of components, (b) perform dynamic probing operations on each of the plurality of components to identify configuration changes made to the configuration of each of the plurality of components, and (c) validate identified configuration changes against the configuration policy to determine whether the configuration changes conform to the configuration policy.

2. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the configuration policy defines, for each configuration parameter of the configuration of each of the plurality of components, a value range for which the configuration parameter will be successfully validated by the server.

3. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the server comprises

a set of core services for responding to an identified configuration change, wherein the set of core services comprises at least one of:

a first service for changing a value of at least one configuration parameter to a default or previously validated value;

a second service for auditing the configuration parameters of the configuration of at least one of the plurality of components;

a third service for generating an alert regarding the configuration parameters of the configuration of at least one of the plurality of components; and

a fourth service for acquiescing to the identified configuration change.

4. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a log storing data that identifies an identified configuration change made to the configuration of a particular component.

5. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a configuration and validation module for performing impact analysis on the identified configuration changes against the plurality of components.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for actively managing configurable components, comprising:

maintaining a repository, accessible to a server, that stores information about a configuration policy;

registering, with the server, each of a plurality of components;

performing dynamic probing operations on each of the plurality of components to identify configuration changes made to a configuration of each of the plurality of components; and

validating, at the server, identified configuration changes against the configuration policy to determine whether the identified configuration changes conform to the configuration policy.

8. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the configuration policy defines, for each configuration parameter of the configuration of each of the plurality of components, a value range for which the configuration parameter will be successfully validated by the server.

9. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, further comprising:

responding to an identified configuration change by performing at least one of:

changing a value of at least one configuration parameter to a default or previously validated value;

auditing configuration parameters of the configuration of at least one of the plurality of components;

generating an alert regarding the configuration parameters of the configuration of at least one of the plurality of components; and

acquiescing to the identified configuration change.

10. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, further comprising:

logging data that identifies an identified configuration change made to the configuration of a particular component to a log file.

11. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, further comprising:

performing impact analysis on the identified configuration changes against the plurality of components.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a plurality of components, wherein each component, of the plurality of components, comprises a client module for accessing configuration parameters of a configuration of the component;

a management server which maintains a repository for storing information about a configuration policy; and

a management console capable of accessing the repository, wherein the management console comprises:

at least one service interface for retrieving (a) the configuration of a particular component, of the plurality of components, by communicating with the client module associated with the particular component, and (b) configurations of each other component of the plurality of components;

a parser for extracting configuration parameters from each retrieved configuration; and

a validator for validating each extracted configuration parameter against the configuration policy.

15. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:

at least one adapter for accessing component-specific configuration parameters of the configuration of at least one of the plurality of components.

16. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:

at least one component-specific adapter for dynamically probing the plurality of components.

17. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:

a component parameter relationship dependency tree formed from the extracted configuration parameters; and

an impact analyzer for analyzing the effect of making a configuration change, to the configuration of the particular component, of the plurality of components, by traversing the component parameter relationship dependency tree.

18. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:

a change manager for effecting a change to a configuration parameter.

19. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:

a set of one or more XML documents comprising the extracted configuration parameters.

20. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, wherein the configuration policy is expressed in a set of global parameter definitions and document type definitions.

21. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:

validation services, wherein the validation services perform at least one of:

managing the configuration parameters of the configuration of the plurality of components;

advising an administrator about the configuration parameters of the configuration of the plurality of components;

alerting an administrator about the configuration parameters of the configuration of the plurality of components; and

acquiescing to the modification of the configuration parameters of the configuration of the plurality of components.

22. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:

a browsing service providing a user interface management console.

23. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:

a management configuration module for registering new components.

24. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:

a management configuration module capable of receiving XML documents, which describe the configuration parameters of the configuration of the particular component, when the configuration of the particular component is changed.

25. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, wherein at least one of the plurality of components corresponds to at least one of a Web server, an internet application server, and a database server.

26. (Previously presented) A method, comprising:

maintaining a repository for storing information about a configuration policy;

retrieving the configuration of each of a plurality of components by communicating with a client module residing at each component of the plurality of components;

extracting, from each configuration retrieved, a set of configuration parameters; and

validating each extracted configuration parameter against the configuration policy.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:

accessing component-specific configuration parameters of the configuration of at least one of the plurality of components.

28. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:

dynamically probing each component, of the plurality of components, to determine whether the configuration of the component has been changed.

29. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:

forming a component parameter relationship dependency tree from the extracted configuration parameters; and

determining the effect of making a configuration change, to the configuration of a particular component, of the plurality of components, by traversing the component parameter relationship dependency tree.

30. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, wherein the configuration policy defines, for each configuration parameter of the configuration of each of the plurality of

components, a value range for which the configuration parameter will be successfully validated.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, wherein the extracted configuration parameters are expressed in one or more XML documents.

32. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, wherein the configuration policy is expressed in a set of global parameter definitions and document type definitions.

33. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising on or more of the following steps:

managing the configuration parameters of the configuration of the plurality of components;

advising an administrator about the configuration parameters of the configuration of the plurality of components;

alerting an administrator about the configuration parameters of the configuration of the plurality of components; and

acquiescing to the modification of the configuration parameters of the configuration of the plurality of components.

34. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:

providing a browsing service comprising a user interface management console.

35. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:

registering new components with a management configuration module.

36. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:

receiving, at a management configuration module, XML documents that describe the configuration parameters of the configuration of a particular component, when the configuration of the particular component is changed.

37. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, wherein at least one of the plurality of components corresponds to at least one of a Web server, an internet application server, and a database server.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the information indicates a relationship dependency between a first configuration parameter in the configuration of a first component and a second configuration parameter in the configuration of a different component.

40. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 39, wherein the server validates the configuration, for the first component, based upon the relationship dependency between the first configuration parameter and the second configuration parameter.

41. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the information includes at least one document type definition defining a mapping between the configuration of at least two of the plurality of individual components.

42. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the information indicates a relationship dependency between a first configuration parameter in the configuration of

a first component and a second configuration parameter in the configuration of a different component.

43. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 42, wherein the server validates the configuration, for the first component, based upon the relationship dependency between the first configuration parameter and the second configuration parameter.

44. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the information includes at least one document type definition defining a mapping between the configuration of at least two of the plurality of individual components.

45. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, wherein a particular configuration change comprises a change to a configuration parameter or type definition associated with a particular component.

46. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the configuration policy, stored in the repository, includes a master set of configuration parameters and type definitions for each of the plurality of components.

47. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 39, wherein the relationship dependency comprises one of one-way, two-way, cyclic, one-to-many, many-to-one, and many-to-many.

48. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 42, wherein the relationship comprises one of one-way, two-way, cyclic, one-to-many, many-to-one, and many-to-many.

49. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium holding code which, when executed, performs the method according to any one of Claims 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, and 48.

50. (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of components is separate from the server.